

THE STATE CAPITAL.

Thompson Murder Trial—The Bill for Temporary Capital Wants Relief—Candidates Arriving—Candidates Developing.

Correspondence of the Gazette. Austin, January 5.—The case of the vs. Tom Thompson, former city clerk of Austin, for the killing of Harris, will be called at San Antonio Tuesday. Because of the known characters of the two men in the tragedy, the case has attracted and will continue to attract considerable attention. Outside of the trial this is a feud begun between gamblers, both desperate and dangerous men, and which, with such men must have ended, as it did, in the death of either one or the other. There has been many warm friends of Thompson in San Antonio who will try to help him to the last, but the result will be what it may. His counsel may move for a change of venue, but he cannot get a trial in San Antonio. This will be backed by the evidence of the best people of San Antonio and Austin, and your reporter was called to-day that several citizens of the former city have recently stated that they do not believe Thompson can get justice in Bexar county. What the result will be will be known Tuesday.

James B. Smith, the gentleman who built the temporary capital, will have a bill before the coming session for relief—that is, that he be reimbursed for the expenses incurred by the partial falling of the building during its course of construction, claiming that the disaster was no fault of his. The facts in this case have already been briefly given in the GAZETTE, and if Mr. Smith is not satisfied with the result, which is not very far from what he has just and equitable claim. There is no blame in the whole matter that should attach to the capitol and for accepting and building upon plans, which are now conceded to have been imperfect, in that they provided for a hundred thousand dollars for forty-five thousand. These plans were accepted and work begun. Mr. Smith claims that the plans and specifications were strictly followed, and as yet there has arisen no dispute about this head. The capitol board has appointed an expert architect to superintend the work of the architect pronounced the work properly done, and Mr. Smith, after this supervision and having his work regularly accepted by the architect and the board, drew his bill for the amount of money as provided by the contract. A terrific rain and wind storm came and tumbled down a portion of the building. Mr. Smith bases the equity of his claim on the following grounds: That the work was done strictly in accordance with the plans given him; that the result of the building was the result of providential causes; that the construction of the building cost about five thousand dollars; that the original plans were suggested by the architect under which he took the contract, involved an expense of over three hundred more; that the state has a better building than the original contract demanded, and that he should not be made to suffer because of the faulty judgment of the board in accepting the imperfect plans and the subsequent play of the elements which no human could control. It is understood that the capitol board will recommend that Mr. Smith be refunded the amount involved in the change of plans as proposed by Mr. Myers' suggestions, but Mr. Smith will ask for more.

There are about twenty members ready here, and every train reinforces the number. The candidates for speaker are Hons. C. R. Gibson, W. F. Patton and C. L. Wurzbach. It is thought Gibson will surely be elected. Candidates for clerkships and subordinate places are numerous.

There will be two contested cases in the house.

The unluckiest man on the Pacific slope. The unluckiest man on the Pacific slope, in point of wealth, is Senator Jones of Nevada. There has, perhaps, never been so vast a fortune so quickly scattered as that of Jones'. In spite of popular belief Senator Jones to-day is poorer, comparatively speaking. When he was elected to the senate in 1875 he was worth at least \$10,000,000. To-day he is not worth over \$50,000 above his debts, and his congressional salary is no longer despised as a source of income. It would be hard to tell where Jones' fortune has gone, or more correctly speaking to tell where it hasn't gone. He can never sue so much money in American schemes, invested so much in bogus friendships, or become so easy prey to financial sharks as Jones. He sunk \$2,000,000 hard money in mines at Panamint, Cal., which have never yielded a dollar. He sunk another million in the Sumner mine, in southern California. He built a railroad in southern California twelve miles long that cost enough to have had every telegraph and every rail silver. The Central Pacific afterward bought it for about \$1,000 a mile. He bought every mine ever offered him; indeed he bought one in Nevada which he never could locate to this day. Jones' agents could never find it. He started an iron factory in New Orleans, but never saw the factory, and never got him into it. He opened the St. James Hotel in New York, and of course, it never paid. The last cruel blow that fate had in store for Jones was the "Sierra Nevada deal," as Californians all call it, of four years ago. It was a mere prospect the stock was shipped from \$5 a share to \$275. Jones' stock is selling now for less than \$5 a share. The Bank of Nevada is believed to be carrying Jones' stock for him. At the time Senator Jones was talked so strongly for secretary of the treasury, Californians, who remembered how well Jones had taken care of his own money, could not repress a smile that he should be thought competent to take care of the people's money.

Go to Keller's for your wagons, buggies and other vehicles. 10-12-11

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COMMERCIAL.

GAZETTE OFFICE, January 6, 1883.

The proceedings of the Forty-seventh Congress are pregnant with interest to the industrial and commercial element of the American people directly, and to the masses indirectly. These proceedings may appropriately be styled "a business session." The Republicans read in their recent reverses at the ballot box the verdict of the people for reform and a cessation of paltering methods in dealing with supreme questions of policy agitating the public mind; and the Democrats, heeding the admonition, are manifesting a disposition for business legislation. Contention over technical differences has practically ceased, and both parties are addressing themselves to the task of redeeming the promises made to the people that the second session of the Forty-seventh Congress should be devoted to the interests of the country and the people. The senate, in order that its members might have an opportunity to explode the surcharge of eloquence in furtherance of civil service reform and debate on the bill for the relief of Fitz John Porter, pretermitted the usual holiday vacation and succeeded in passing the Pendleton bill, and is now ready to proceed with legislation of material consequence. The deliberation evinced by the separate branches of the law-making power in dealing with the intricate and complex problem of the tariff and internal revenue is an auspicious omen. It is to be expected that legislation on these momentous issues might inflict an injury to the commerce and industries of the country which the most prophetic cannot now foresee. Whether or not any measures for the modification of the tariff and internal revenue laws will be enacted during the next seven weeks of the existence of the Forty-seventh Congress, is a question regarding which there are notable differences of opinion. It is certain, however, that measures have been devised contemplating this end. The ways and means committee of the house have already reported a bill to abolish the revenue on tobacco, and are diligently revising and modifying the report of the tariff commission; and the finance committee of the senate have submitted a bill designed to accomplish the purpose of tariff legislation. The chairman of these respective committees, "Pig Iron" Kelly and Judge Morrill, are avowed protectionists, and it may be reasonably anticipated that they will exert whatever influence attaches to their position, to direct results in accordance with their peculiar views. The sentiment of some members for revision may be too pronounced for liberal modifications and thereby provoke hostile opposition and thwart legislation entirely, devolving the duty and the responsibility upon the ensuing congress. Claimer of the protectionists for the repeal of the tobacco tax and the reduction of internal revenue on other commodities, is an ingenious and covert art to maintain intact the protective tariff. They perceive that in the event of the repeal of the revenue laws, a sweeping revision of the statutes affecting the tariff would call into question the probability of a deficiency in the general revenues—a consideration which of course would constrain congress to adopt for a period the policy of laissez-faire with respect to the customs. But it is not probable the specious pleadings of the high tariff advocates will avail materially in the face of the unequivocal expressions of the people, the recommendations of the tariff commission, the suggestions of President Arthur, and the spirit of the people's representatives. The question is a profound one, and as long as it is agitated is calculated to disturb, in a qualified degree, the business of the country. Manufacturers and business are alike affected, and the elements of uncertainty of results must pervade their calculations until decisive action is taken by congress.

Cotton and Grain.

Table with columns for GRAIN, COFFEE, and other commodities, listing prices for various grades and quantities.

Financial.

Table with columns for GOLD AND SILVER, BANKERS EXCHANGE, and other financial data, listing buying and selling prices.

Drugs.

Table listing various drugs and their prices, including acids, salts, and other medicinal supplies.

Saddlery and Harness.

Table listing saddlery and harness items such as California perches, collars, and bridles, with their respective prices.

Poultry, Eggs and Butter.

Table listing poultry and egg prices, including chickens, turkeys, and various types of eggs.

Wagon Woodwork.

Table listing wagon woodwork items like spokes, felloes, hubs, and axles, with prices.

Hardware.

Table listing hardware items such as nails, hammers, axes, and tools, with prices.

Liquors.

Table listing various liquors including whiskey, brandy, and wine, with prices per gallon.

Wool, Hides, Etc.

Table listing wool, hides, and other animal products, with prices for different grades and quantities.

Crockery and Furniture.

Table listing crockery and furniture items like chairs, tables, and lamps, with prices.

POPULAR.

Table listing popular items like flour, macaroni, and various foodstuffs, with prices.

GROCERIES.

Table listing grocery items such as coffee, sugar, and various oils, with prices.

WOODENWARE.

Table listing woodenware items like buckets, brooms, and other household goods, with prices.

Dry Goods.

Table listing dry goods items like cottons, silks, and various fabrics, with prices.

PELVETRIES.

Table listing pelvetries items like sheepskins, goat skins, and other animal skins, with prices.

PRINTS.

Table listing various prints and fabrics, with prices.

GLASS AND CEMENT.

Table listing glass and cement items, with prices.

BRICKS.

Table listing various types of bricks, with prices.

PAINTS.

Table listing various types of paints, with prices.

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THE PRESS ASSOCIATION MEETS HERE TO-DAY. Those present in the city are Messrs. Farrar, Morrison, and others. The meeting was held at the city hall and was attended by a large number of the press.